

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the triggering of an image recording by means of at least one camera system, in which

at least one part region (13) of an image recording surface (15) of the camera system is acted on by means of at least one radiation source (11) in a non-recording state;

the signal hereby derived from the image recording surface (15) is supplied to an evaluation device (25) and is evaluated as a non-recording signal; and

the image recording is triggered automatically on a change of the non-recording signal.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the propagation path of the radiation (17) from the radiation source (11) to the image recording surface (15) extends through a monitored zone (19) disposed in the range of vision of the camera system.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a displacement of the part region (13) on the image recording surface (15) acted on by radiation (17) from the radiation source (11) is evaluated as a change triggering the image recording.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) is acted on in accordance with the light scanner principle such that the propagation path of the radiation (17) from the radiation source (11) to the image recording surface (15) is changed by objects (21) entering into a monitored zone (19) of the camera system.

5. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the absence of the radiation (17) incident on the part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) is evaluated as a change triggering the image recording.

6. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) is acted on in accordance with the light barrier principle such that the propagation path of the radiation (17) from the radiation source (11) to the image recording surface (15) is interrupted by objects (21) entering into a monitored zone (19) of the camera system.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) to be acted on by means of the radiation source (11) is pre-determined and exclusively this part region (13) is evaluated in the non-recording state.

8. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the propagation path of the radiation (17) from the radiation source (11) to the image recording surface (15) is adjustable, in particular by a movement of the radiation source (11) relative to the image recording surface (15).

9. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that at least a part of an illumination device that is present and provided for the lighting of a monitored zone of the camera system is used as the radiation source (11).

10. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the triggering of the image recording includes the activation of an illumination device (37).

11. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the signal obtained by acting on the part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) is used for the function check, in particular for the defining of the degree of contamination, with the intensity of the radiation acting on the part region (13) preferably being monitored for this purpose.

12. A method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a camera system is used in accordance with any one of the claims below.

13. A camera system comprising at least one image recording surface (15), an evaluation device (25) for the reading out of the image recording surface (15) and at least one radiation source (11) by means of which at least one part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) can be acted on in a non-recording state, with the evaluation device (25) being made such that the signal originating from the part region (13) of the image recording surface (15) acted on is evaluated as a non-recording signal, a change of the non-recording signal is recognized and, on a change of the non-recording signal, a triggering signal is generated automatically for the triggering of an image recording.

14. A camera system in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that the image recording surface (15) is formed by a spatially resolving sensor (23), in particular by a sensor of the CMOS, CCD or CID type.

15. A camera system in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that the radiation source (11) is movable relative to the image recording surface (15).

16. A camera system in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that the radiation source (11) is arranged spatially separated from the image recording surface (15).

17. A camera system in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that the image recording surface (15) and the radiation source (11) are integrated into a common unit.

18. A camera system in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that a display device is provided for the distinguishable display of the non-recording state and of the recording state.

19. A camera system in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that the triggering of the image recording takes place in accordance with a method in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 12.